



HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK • ONEIDA • ONONDAGA • CAYUGA • SENECA • TUSCARORA

TONAWANDA SENECA NATION

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September 2, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Nya:wěh Sgě:nö', President Biden,

On behalf of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation, Council of Chiefs, I extend greetings to you and your associates and give thanks that all are enjoying good health.

We write regarding recent passage of legislation designed to expand domestic manufacture of semiconductor chips and chip components and to combat climate change. Whatever the benefits of the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, these laws should not be used to harm Indigenous Peoples.

The Tonawanda Seneca Nation categorically rejects any proposal to locate chemical-intensive industrial manufacturing on or near our federally-recognized reservation Territory, including manufacturing of semiconductor chips and chip components, batteries, battery components, solar cells, and the like. While a local developer, the Genesee County Economic Development Center, seeks to use federal funds to site dangerous, chemical-intensive manufacturing of this kind directly adjacent to our Territory at a parcel of our ancestral territory known as STAMP, we cannot accept the threat this poses to our people, our environment, and our future generations. By any measure, the people of our Nation already face some of the greatest challenges of any community in the United States, including historical trauma from our treatment by New York State, discrimination, lack of resources, and an influx of illegal drugs and activity by non-Indians on our Territory. Siting industrial manufacturing at Tonawanda would be a grave environmental injustice.

The Tonawanda Seneca Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation, 86 Fed. Reg. 7,554 7,557 [Jan. 29, 2021], and a member nation of the Haudenosaunee, also known as the Six Nations or Iroquois Confederacy. We govern our Territory and citizens according to the Great Law of

Peace. The Nation is a successor in interest to the Seneca Nation that signed the 1794 Treaty with the Six Nations, which guarantees the Nation free use and enjoyment of our lands. 7 Stat. 44, Art. 3-4.

Recognizing our longstanding, treaty-based Nation to Nation relationship with the United States, we call upon you to ensure federal funding will not be used to desecrate our ancestral territory, pollute our treaty-protected forests or waters, or harm our people. Commitments made by President George Washington to protect our land rights have been violated many times over and our original treaty territory of 3.5 million acres has been diminished to just 7,500. Nonetheless, we understand that your Administration is committed to promoting environmental justice and ensuring that Indigenous Peoples do not bear the burdens of industrial manufacturing, whether for computer chips, batteries, solar cells, or anything else. We believe this commitment requires you to prohibit federal funding of chemical-intensive industrial development adjacent to our Territory.

We respectfully request your immediate response and look forward to working in good faith with you and your Administration to protect our people, our Territory, and our way of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief Roger Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the word "Chief" written in a smaller, more upright script than the name "Roger Hill".

Chief Roger Hill
Council of Chiefs
Tonawanda Seneca Nation

cc: Jessica Ennis, Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Michael Regan, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency